

Appl. No. : 10/814,416
Filed : March 31, 2004

REMARKS

By way of summary, Claims 1-24 were originally filed in the present application. Claims 25-31 were added and Claim 14 was cancelled by previous amendments. Claim 28 has been cancelled herein. Claim 30 has been amended herein. Accordingly, Claims 1-13, 15-27, and 29-31 are currently pending in the present application.

Allowable Claims

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-13, 15-27, and 29-31.

Claim 28

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,968,276 to Hashimoto ("Hashimoto"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of Hashimoto as set forth in the Office Action and with the rejection of Claim 28. Nevertheless, to expedite the issuance of the allowed claims, Applicant has cancelled Claim 28. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of Claim 28 at a subsequent time in the present application or in any other application. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for an issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Claim 30

Claim 30 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error unrelated to patentability.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action is inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped

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issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: May 22, 2006

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